# MILBRODALE MADNESS!!!

## 1998 4WD JAMBOREE

BY CRAIG DICKMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CRAIG DICKMAN & MARINA COLLINS

Have you ever thought just how much work, time and effort goes into something like a large 4WD Clubs' Jamboree? The hassles of organising a thousand different things, meetings, being on and organising committees, liaising with the Association, sponsors, clubs and heaps of other individuals and organisations you know are going to make a successful event.

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But the only thing that you forgot to realise was the weather!

These were my thoughts as I made slow headway up the Putty Road towards Milbrodale on Good Friday. The rain pelted down so hard that at times I seriously thought that there could be no way that even a lunchtime picnic let alone a four day Jamboree could be staged in this weather. So depressing were my thoughts that I even contemplated turning back towards the very damp city. It was probably a reaction to these latter thoughts that kept my Vitara headed in the right direction with the gut feeling that the rain would eventually stop.

And stop it did! By the time I arrived in the camp the rain had stopped, and except for the odd light shower which actually helped keep the dust down, it stayed away for the rest of the weekend. Just as well I thought as I reflected on how the organisers had burned the candle at both ends.

The 1998 4WD Clubs' Jamboree was staged by the Recreational Four Wheel Drive Clubs Association of NSW & ACT, and was hosted by the

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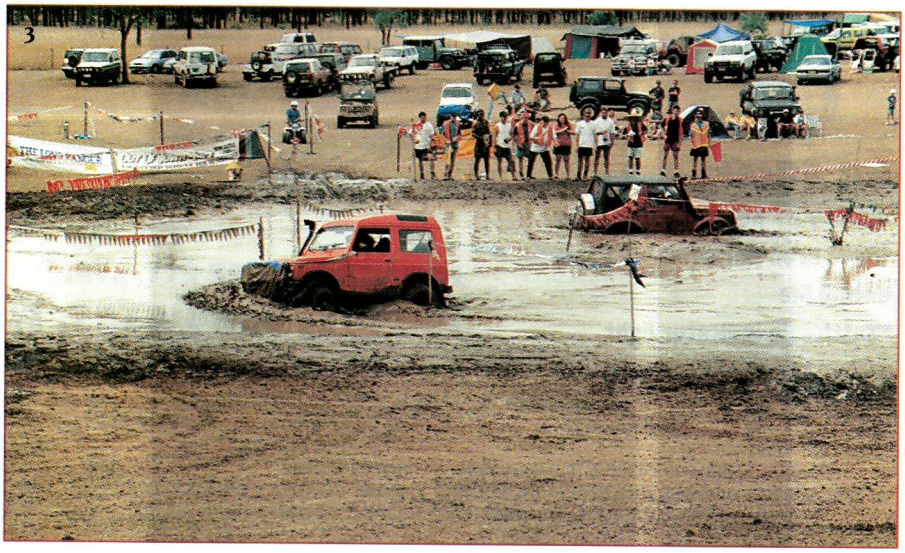
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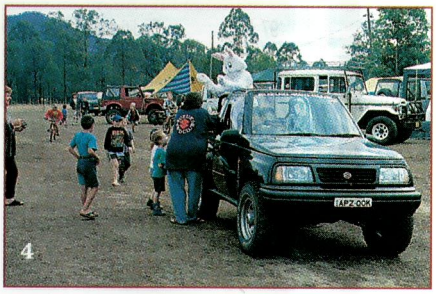
Suzuki Club of NSW.

The weekend was divided up with the usual activities like the Bog Hole, Hill Climb, Day Trips and Rocky Horror etc. along with a whole host of socially inspired activities including huge camp fires, discos, talent quest, a wheel travel quest (which raised money for the Red Cross), happy hours and activities for the kids including pony rides and the Easter Bunny.

Like most activities staged by 4WDrivers, there are always those that will get involved and give help where it is needed. I guess that's what being a member of a 4WD club is all about.



At the '98 Jamboree, this was certainly the case and quite a few people and clubs joined in to help the Suzuki Club with different events and skills. For example, the All-Terrain 4WD Club designed and built a very scary looking Rocky Horror, where one unfortunate Patrol had a tyre ripped off its rim before managing to get jammed between the boulders - fun, fun!

The intrepid Recovery team from the R.F.W.D.C.A with some support from the Southern Cross 4WD Club worked the wire on the Hill Climb, all that long hot Saturday. For these people it meant usually missing out on being able to compete in these events, but this unselfish attitude meant that other 4WDrivers had the best of times.

At the Hill Climb a large number of spectators made the trip around to the next valley where the event was staged. They enthusiastically lined the northern side of the track and did their best to make themselves comfortable on the steep hill. One hundred and eighty eight entries from all clubs plus private entries attempted to complete the approximately 50 metre long thirty ➤

*1. This is Clinton Adams' handy work. You might remember him from last years Jamboree when he flipped his Sierra onto its lid! He was smart this year though, he used his girlfriend's Suzuki!*
*2. The BUSHDRIVER LandCruiser has a crack at the hill climb and made it up easily. But it was the slowest time that won.*
*3. The bog hole - haven for Suzukis of all vintages.*
*4. The Easter Bunny was on hand to entertain the young ones.*
*5&6. Norm Needham (75 Series) and Mick Whitehead (Wrangler) were the first team to conquer the All-Terrain challenge.*

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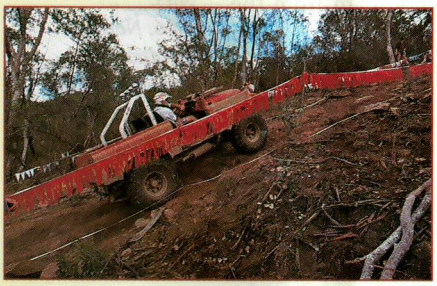
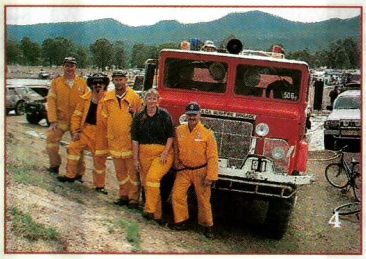
degree track. There were events for both men and women, and to make sure everyone survived, the Red Cross from the Hunter VAD were on hand.

The only large things that came tumbling down the hill at odd intervals were the rather large boulders dislodged by the hard working wheels. Kicking back and spectating, I was amazed at the number of Hill Climb competitors who tried to reach the top with high tyre pressures. Anything for a challenge...

*1. Whoops....A tired Landy takes a rest on its side.*
*2. The charge of the Brown Brigade!*
*3. This Nissan G60 was extremely competent, conquering most of the challenging courses.*
*4. The Bulga Fire Brigade were on hand to help wash the mud of the vehicles.*





Mud, mud and more mud! The usual glunky, sticky mushy slop that Milbrodale is renowned for. Although slightly smaller and less wet than it used to be - due to the preceding dry months - the Sunday Bog Hole event was one of the highlights of the Jamboree. For the first entrants the bog hole was reasonably drivable, but after an hour a large hole was gouged in front of the starting line, and this claimed a number of unlucky victims - so the snatch straps got a good workout.

It was good to see that most teams were well prepared for the event, often sporting swampers or mud terrains, lowering tyre pressures and most competitors had the sense to fit mud blinds. This was in contrast to the '96 Milbrodale Jamboree where on the way back to the big smoke, the Putty Road was littered with 4WDs with clogged radiators.

A great washing service was provided by the Bulga Rural Fire Service. This was to hose down the cars after their run through the bog hole. For a small donation each car was jet blasted clean, and this often also included the competitors as well.

Another important watering service was provided by Liam Quigley and Greg Page from G.R.P Auto. This took the form of a keg of Hahn Premium Lager, and was most welcome to the hard working spectators on this hot and humid day.

The success of any great event can only be judged by the involvement of all concerned, but without that initial input by a small number of hard working dedicated people such as Mick Kristofferson and the Jamboree committee from the Suzuki 4WD Club of NSW the event would not have eventuated at all. And what a great weekend it was. Despite the initial bad weather, it was one of the best 4WD Clubs' Jamborees on record.

The next Jamboree will be hosted by the Southern Cross 4WD Club Inc, and will be held in the Oberon area. For further details stay tuned to BUSHDRIVER. See you all there!


# SMART BAR

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| Cherokee Limited* | 7/97 + | Modern | $899 |
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| Triton 2WD & 4WD | 10/96+ | Modern | $899 |
| Canter FE | 6/96 + | Traditional | $899 |
| FK + FM | 6/96 + | Traditional | $1299 |
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| Patrol GQ | 2/88 - 10/97 | Traditional | $899 |
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| Patrol Coil C/C | 2/92 - 10/97 | Traditional | $899 |
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| RAV 4* | 6/94 - 8/97 | Modern | $899 |
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| 60 Series | 8/80 - 11/84 | Traditional | $899 |
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